

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Saturday, November 1, 2025

Cutbacks

From the [Daily Bruin](#): *The UCLA Department of Mathematics eliminated paid graders and limited working hours for teaching assistants after UCLA cut its budget for the 2025-26 academic year. Mario Bonk, the interim chair of the mathematics department, said the department can no longer afford to employ TAs at their previously contracted levels. The department cut its budget for graders – who read and grade students' exams and homework – reallocating those funds to support the TA budget...*

The Department of Mathematics limited TA teaching appointments from a guaranteed 50% – which amounted to 20 hours a week – to 25% for the current academic year, said Ely Jrade, a mathematics doctoral student. The department removed TAs and discussion sections from most upper-division courses...

The UC enhanced packages for members of United Auto Workers Local 4811, a union representing academic student employees, graduate students and academic and postdoctoral researchers, after the union struck in 2022...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2025/10/28/ucla-math-department-ta-grader-cuts-spark-concern-over-student-learning-support>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [UC budget crisis](#), [UCLA](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 148

From [Inside Higher Ed](#): *A student and law professor are the latest to face punishment from academic institutions for their public remarks about Charlie Kirk, the right-wing activist who was assassinated last month. Earlier this month, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock fired Felicia Branch, who was hired as a law professor there over the summer, Reuters reported. Branch was first suspended in September after posting on Facebook that people should not be criticized for celebrating that "an evil person is no longer on this earth causing immense suffering." The post sparked outrage from some state lawmakers, and after an investigation, the university fired her in a letter dated Oct. 13.*

"I cannot see a pathway where you could remain in your position at the Bowen Law School without compromising the trust and confidence of your students and colleagues," Christina Drale, UA Little Rock's chancellor, wrote in the letter.



Then, [last] week, the Oxford Union Society, a prestigious debating society in London, ousted its incoming president after he posted, "Charlie Kirk got shot loool," on Instagram, the BBC reported. George Abaraonye, who is a student at University College, had debated Kirk about toxic masculinity at an event in May. After the debating society voted no confidence in Abaraonye's leadership following his comments about Kirk, Abaraonye disputed the validity of the vote. Since Kirk's death, numerous higher education employees have been fired for their comments about Kirk. Some have sued for wrongful termination, and at least one has been reinstated.

Source: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/10/23/more-higher-ed-ousters-over-charlie-kirk-comments>.

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From [Inside Higher Ed](#): *While seven of the nine universities originally invited to join the Trump administration's "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education" have formally rejected the agreement, Valley Forge Military College wants to sign on to the proposal, as first reported by Fox News. President Donald Trump extended the invitation to all colleges after initial rejections from institutions that objected to provisions in the compact that would limit academic freedom.*

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

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- [Our Concerns Over Revisions to APMs 15 and 16](#)
- [Fight for the Future of Higher Ed Town Hall](#)
- [Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix](#)
- [Judge rules Trump demands of UCLA must be made public](#)

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The compact would require universities to suppress criticism of conservatives on campus, cap international enrollment at 15 percent, freeze tuition, overhaul admissions and hiring practices, and make various other changes in return for preferential treatment on federal research funding.

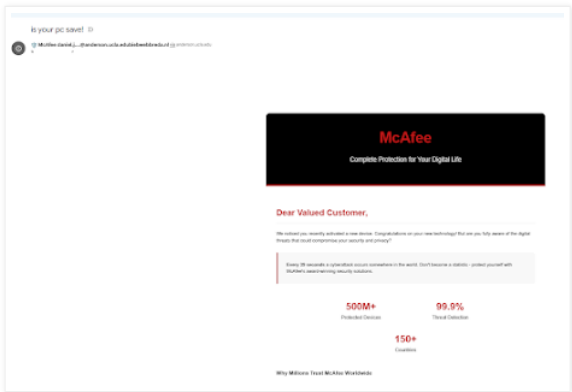
...It is unclear how Valley Forge, which does not have a research focus, would benefit. The college is also much smaller than the first invitees, enrolling 86 students in fall 2023, according to federal data. Valley Forge is now the third institution to publicly express interest in signing the compact since the invitation was expanded, following Grand Canyon University and New College of Florida.

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/10/31/valley-forge-military-college-wants-sign-compact>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [New College of Florida](#), [Oxford](#), [politics](#), [U of Arkansas](#), [Valley Forge Military College](#)

Unsafe



This emailed ad, ostensibly from McAfee, a company that sells protection against malware, is headed "is your pc save!" Bad English. Incorrect punctuation. Its return email address is:

McAfee.daniel.j...@anderson.ucla.edubiebwebbreda.nl

which is a foreign address and doesn't look like anything that McAfee would use.

Don't click! Delete.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [email fraud](#)

Friday, October 31, 2025

But feel free to walk around

From the [Bruin](#): *UCLA budget cuts have forced student-led tour organizations to reduce the frequency of their tours and limit working hours, student employees said. Frank Hobson, an executive coordinator for UCLA Cub Tours, said organizations that fall under UCLA Enrollment Management – including student tour guide organizations – were forced to reduce their budget by 10% due to a deferral of state funding. While Gov. Gavin Newsom and the California State Legislature reached a final state budget agreement June 24 that did not reduce the UC's funding for the 2025-26 fiscal year, the agreed upon budget deferred a payment of about \$130 million to the UC until July 1, 2026...*



A spokesperson for Undergraduate Admission – a department under Enrollment Management that student tour groups are a part of – said in an emailed statement that the budget cuts to student tour groups come as part of a broader effort to reduce operational costs across the university...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2025/10/27/student-tour-guides-voice-concern-over-reduced-operations-hiring-amid-budget-cuts>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [State Budget](#), [UC budget crisis](#), [UCLA](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 147

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From [Inside Higher Ed](#): Texas governor Greg Abbott picked a regent from Texas Southern University to serve as the state's first higher ed ombudsman, who will ensure state universities adhere to recent laws that restricted the role of faculty senates and banned diversity, equity and inclusion practices, the state announced in a news release last week. The new office, which will be housed under the state Higher Education Coordinating Board, will serve as a go-between for state lawmakers and colleges and universities. It also will manage complaints and investigations related to reported violations of either the DEI ban or some provisions of Senate Bill 37, which state lawmakers passed earlier this year and that requires state institutions to make a number of changes.



Brandon Simmons, a former tech company executive, corporate attorney and venture capitalist whom Abbott previously appointed to serve on the Texas Southern Board of Regents, will lead the ombudsman's office. Simmons has also served as an entrepreneurial resident and distinguished professor of business at Wiley University in Marshall, Tex., since 2024...

The state Senate still has to sign off on Simmons's appointment before he can take office...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/10/22/texas-governor-appoints-ombudsman-who-will-oversee-higher-ed>.

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From the [Guardian](#): Florida governor, Ron DeSantis, is urging the state's universities to stop hiring international employees through the H-1B visa program. DeSantis said he wants the Florida board of governors "to pull the plug" on the practice. Nearly 400 foreign nationals are currently employed at Florida's public universities under the H-1B visa program, reported the Orlando Sentinel. "Universities across the country are importing foreign workers on H-1B visas instead of hiring Americans who are qualified and available to do the job," said DeSantis in a statement. "We will not tolerate H-1B abuse in Florida institutions. That's why I have directed the Florida Board of Governors to end this practice."

However, it's unclear how such a move could be carried out. States do not have authority to revoke federal visas, and US Citizenship and Immigration Services regulations prohibit firing employees based on immigration status.

...DeSantis cited positions filled by workers from China, Argentina and Canada, arguing these roles were taken from qualified Floridians in favor of "cheap labor." ... The University of Florida is one of the state's largest users of the H-1B program, employing more than 150 staff members under the visa, according to an Orlando Sentinel review of federal data...

Full story at <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/29/desantis-florida-universities-visa-h1b>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, diversity, politics, Texas Southern U, U of Florida

Our Halloween Offering



The Caterpillar:

<https://dn720408.ca.archive.org/0/items/the-caterpillar/The%20Caterpillar.mp4>

And please do not contact yours truly with the observation that the brain would not feel pain, e.g., RFK Jr.'s famous worm.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Thursday, October 30, 2025

UCLA/UC Throws in the Towel - Part 3 (more reflections)

At the time UCLA/UC released a copy of the memo from the feds on what kind of a deal was being offered, UCOP made the following statement:

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 90

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Overwhelming votes

Two

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Bugged

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They don't quite say don't give it

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In Case You Missed It

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Special

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 84



Statement on the release of proposed settlement agreement sent by the Department of Justice to the University of California

UC Office of the President - October 24, 2025

As required by the court, the University has released a copy of the proposed settlement agreement sent by the Department of Justice to the University on August 8, 2025. UC has been clear it must evaluate its response to the administration's settlement proposal that, like all settlement communications, is confidential. As stated previously, the proposed \$1.2 billion settlement payment alone would derail work that saves lives, grows our economy, and fortifies our

national security. UC remains committed to protecting the mission, governance, and academic freedom of the University.

Source: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/statement-release-proposed-settlement-agreement-sent-department-justice-university>.

Some observations: 1) There is an assertion that the memo is "confidential," without any acknowledgment of the leak - which rendered it something less than confidential. 2) The only flat rejection in the statement is of the money involved. 3) Beyond the money, while there is a general reference to the "mission, governance, and academic freedom of the University," no other specific proposals/demands of the feds are listed as unacceptable. 4) There is no explicit rejection of some (modified) version of the deal. Number 4 is in contrast to the explicit rejections, e.g., by MIT, of a less elaborate deal offered to some universities.

It's hard to tell whether UC is saying it is still open to negotiation or whether we have arrived at a state of paralysis - particularly in view of the governor's seeming objection to any kind of deal.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [governor](#), [MIT](#), [politics](#), [UC](#), [UCLA](#)

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